

REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE
Week ending the 11th July 1896.

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LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
BENGALI.					
Weekly.					
1	"Banganivasi" ...	Calcutta	5,000		Temporarily discontinued from May 1896.
2	"Bangavasi" ...	Ditto	20,000	4th July, 1896.	
3	"Hitaishi" ...	Ditto	800	7th ditto.	
4	"Hitavadi" ...	Ditto	About 4,000	3rd ditto.	
5	"Mihir-o-Sudhakar" ...	Ditto	2,500	4th ditto.	
6	"Navayuga" ...	Ditto	.....	4th ditto.	
7	"Sahachar" ...	Ditto	About 500	1st ditto.	
8	"Samay" ...	Ditto	3,000	3rd ditto.	
9	"Sanjivani" ...	Ditto	3,000	4th ditto.	
10	"Som Prakash" ...	Ditto	800	6th ditto.	
Daily.					
1	"Banga Vidya Prakashika"	Ditto	About 350		
2	"Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika."	Ditto	1,000	5th to 8th July, 1896.	
3	"Samvad Prabhakar" ...	Ditto	1,250	3rd and 5th ditto.	
4	"Samvad Purnachandrodaya"	Ditto	200	2nd to 4th and 6th to 9th July, 1896.	
5	"Sulabh Dainik" ...	Ditto	Read by 3,000	3rd, 4th and 6th to 9th July, 1896.	
HINDI.					
Weekly.					
1	"Bharat Mitra" ...	Ditto	2,000	3rd July, 1896.	
2	"Hindi Bangavasi" ...	Ditto	10,000	6th ditto.	
3	"Uchit Vakta" ...	Ditto	.....	
Daily.					
1	"Dainik Bharat Mitra" ...	Ditto	5,000		
PERSIAN.					
Weekly.					
1	"Hublul Mateen" ...	Ditto	.....	29th June, 1896.	
URDU.					
Weekly.					
1	"Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide."	Ditto	310	3rd July, 1896.	
2	"General and Gauhariasfi"	Ditto	330		
BENGALI.					
BURDWAN DIVISION.					
Fortnightly.					
1	"Bankura Darpan" ...	Bankura	450	1st July, 1896.	
2	"Ulubaria Darpan" ...	Ulubaria	700		
Weekly.					
1	"Burdwan Sanjivani" ...	Burdwan	About 250	30th June, 1896.	
2	"Chinsura Vartavaha" ...	Chinsura	550	5th July, 1896.	
3	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly	1,145	3rd ditto.	
Monthly.					
PRESIDENCY DIVISION.					
1	"Ghosak" ...	Khulna	350		

No	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.		
BENGALI.							
Weekly.							
1	"Murshidabad Hitaishi" ...	Murshidabad ...	826	1st July, 1896.	Only six copies have been issued since the paper was received in January 1894. Some 200 copies of each issue are said to have been circulated, but no subscribers have been registered. This paper is said to have some circulation in the Division, but the number of subscribers could not be ascertained.		
2	"Murshidabad Pratinidhi" ...	Berhampore ...	200				
3	"Pratihar" ...	Ditto ...	608				
URIYA.							
Monthly.							
ORISSA DIVISION.							
1	"Brahma" ...	Cuttack ...	160				
2	"Indradhanu" ...	Ditto ...	.....			
3	"Shikshabandhu" ...	Ditto ...	.....			
4	"Utkalprabha" ...	Mayurbhunj ...	.....			
Weekly.							
1	"Sambalpur Hitaishini" ...	Bamra in the Central Provinces.	.....			
2	"Samvad Vahika" ...	Balasore ...	190				
3	"Uriya and Navasamvad" ...	Ditto ...	309				
4	"Utkal Dipika" ...	Cuttack ...	480				
HINDI.							
Monthly.							
PATNA DIVISION.							
1	"Bihar Bandhu" ...	Bankipur ...	500				
Weekly.							
1	"Aryavarta" ...	Dinapur ...	1,000				
URDU.							
Weekly.							
1	"Akhbar-i-Al Punch" ...	Bankipur ...	500				
2	"Gaya Punch" ...	Gaya ...	400				
29th June, 1896.							
Temporarily discontinued from 15th May, 1896.							
BENGALI.							
Weekly.							
RAJSHAHI DIVISION.							
1	"Bagura Darpan" ...	Bogra ...	.....	1st July, 1896.		
2	"Hindu Ranjika" ...	Boalia, Rajshahi ...	195				
3	"Rangpur Dikprakash" ...	Kakina, Rangpur ...	180				
HINDI.							
Monthly.							
1	"Darjeeling Mission ke Masik Samachar Patrika."	Darjeeling ...	500				
BENGALI.							
Fortnightly.							
DACCA DIVISION.							
1	"Kasipur Nivasi" ...	Kasipur, Barisal ...	244		11th June, 1896.		
It is said that 550 copies of the paper are printed each month. Out of this number 150 copies are distributed among the subscribers, and the rest sold to the public at three pies per copy.							

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Charn Mihir" ...	Mymensingh ...	900	29th June, 1896.	
2	"Dacca Prakash" ...	Dacca ...	2,400	5th July, 1896.	
3	"Saraswat Patra" ...	Do. ...	About 440	4th ditto.	
4	"Vikrampur" ...	Lauhajanga, Dacca ...	240	4th June and 2nd July, 1896.	
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Dacca Gazette" ...	Dacca ...	500	6th July, 1896.	
BENGALI. CHITTAGONG DIVISION.					
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	"Tripura Prakash" ...	Comilla ...	700	Jyaishtha, 1st and 2nd fortnights, 1303 B.S.	
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Sansodhini" ...	Chittagong ...	120		
BENGALI.					
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	"Paridarshak-o-Srihattavasi"	Sylhet ...	.....	

I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 5th July has the following:—

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
July 5th, 1896.

The question of the cost of the Soudan expedition.

The Governor-General in Council has been slighted, and Lord George Hamilton, Secretary of State for India, has treated his opinion with contempt. As if it is not sufficient injustice to make the Government of India send troops to the Soudan, it has been saddled with the ordinary expenses of the Indian contingent. The British Ministry would not have certainly acted in this way if they had a grain of conscience to show. The Governor-General of India in Council strongly protested against the policy of the Secretary of State for India. He has shown that India has no such interest in the Soudan war as to justify the Secretary of State compelling her to assist the British Ministry with troops and their cost. The Governor-General and his Councilors have in a manner protested against the policy of launching on the Soudan expedition, and this has enraged the British Ministry all the more. The Government of India has proved that England, and England alone, is intimately connected with the administration of Egypt; that it is England and not India that has large interests at stake in the Suez Canal; and that if India has any interest in the Suez Canal, the Australian and other British colonies in Asia have that interest equally with her. If these colonies are not required to pay anything towards the cost of the expedition, why should India alone be made to pay a portion of the cost? The Government of India has upheld the cause of righteousness and justice by strongly protesting against an unjust and selfish policy. Its outspokenness and the weight of its arguments have offended the Home Government beyond measure. The Governor-General in Council has also clearly shown that it was quite as unjust on former occasions to have made India bear the cost of sending troops to defend British interests abroad, as it is at present. The British Ministry cannot tolerate the idea that the Government of India should try to maintain its independence, and preach justice and righteousness to its masters. They cannot also bear that the Government of India should plead the poverty of the Indian people, and say that a rich people like the English ought not to shift on to the shoulders of a poor people the burden which they themselves ought to bear. What impudence! What impertinence! It is strange that the British Ministry have not yet dismissed the Governor-General and his Councilors. The truth is, that the Governor-General and his Council ought to resign in a body rather than submit to the highhanded, unjust and unrighteous policy of the British Ministry. Such a course on their part may not bear immediate fruit, but there can be no doubt that it will bear good fruit in future. There is not a tinge of justice and righteousness in the Secretary of State's despatch. He says that as the Government of India has a special interest at stake in the Suez Canal, and is interested in the Egyptian administration, it is bound to pay the cost of troops sent by it to defend British interests in Egypt. The Government of India has exposed the hollowness of this argument. But the British Ministry have nothing to do with reason or logic, and they can safely defy the whole world so long as they have a solid majority of one hundred and fifty votes on their side. The Indian public should in one voice support the Government of India, and strongly protest against the unjust policy of the Home Government.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

2. The *Bankura Darpan* of the 1st July says that cases which are instituted by fraudulently recruited coolies against their recruiters generally come to an unsuccessful issue, because in the absence of the complainants

Cases against fraudulent coolie recruiters generally unsuccessful.

in Assam, their cases, which are tried in the place of recruitment, are investigated and conducted by "pious" police officers, whilst the accused recruiters enjoy the advantage of conducting their defences in person. These cases, indeed, do more harm than good, by encouraging recruiters to defy the law. A coolie sent up to Assam fetches a recruiter, say, eighty rupees, whilst if the latter is charged with fraud in enlisting a coolie, he has to spend only twenty or thirty rupees in his defence, and he then escapes scotfree.

BANKURA DARPAN,
July 1st, 1896.

BANGAVASI,
July 4th, 1896.

3. A correspondent of the *Bangavasi* of the 4th July complains that wild animals are making great havoc in Nayagram in the Midnapore district. A few days ago, a wild elephant killed a pregnant woman, a peasant and a cow near Putina, a village in the same district. A boy of Rakshanimara, another village in the same district, has been carried off by a tiger, and in Nayagram a tiger has killed a woman and many cows. In the same village a wild bear attacked a man in broad daylight.

Wild animals in Midnapore.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

TRIPURA PRAKASH,
First and second
fortnights of
Jaisitha.

4. The *Tripura Prakash* for the first and second fortnights of *Jyaisitha* wonders why Government does not see the evil consequences of keeping certain Deputy Magistrates too long in Comilla. Within the last two or three years Comilla has seen many Deputy Magistrates come and go, but the Deputy Magistrates in question seem to have become fixtures. It is hoped that Mr. Skrine will enquire how long each Deputy Magistrate now in Comilla has been in the station, and will cause such as have been there too long to be transferred.

Certain Deputy Magistrates of
Comilla.

CHARU MIHIR,
June 29th, 1896.

5. The *Charu Mihir* of the 29th June has the following:—

Panchayets should replace
Honorary Benches.

The executive administration has secured peace to the country, made the lives and property of the subject people safe, and prevented the strong from oppressing the weak. As regards judicial administration, however, the daily increase in the amount of litigation in the Civil and Criminal Courts show that the people of the country are not everywhere living in peace. Whoever knows how expensive litigation in British Courts is, will have no difficulty in forming an idea of the condition to which people are being reduced. The Independent Benches which have been created in almost all principal villages in Bengal are mostly composed of uneducated men possessing no knowledge of the law. The Honorary Magistrates generally show more desire to convict than the paid Magistracy; and an accused person, brought up before an Honorary Magistrate, has therefore little chance of going unpunished. These Honorary Benches have, indeed, become veritable engines of oppression. Why their number is being so largely multiplied in a country where the peasantry can hardly get two full meals a day is a mystery to many. These Courts have done nothing besides increasing litigation among the peasantry, who now rush into Court for the settlement of matters which were formerly settled out of Court. Misery can hardly be extremer than this. But the country is yet destined to see the time when quarrels between husband and wife will come into Court and thereby destroy the happiness of both. The Bengalis are a peace-loving people. They live in happiness and contentment with their families, even if they starve or get very insufficient food. But owing to the operation of these causes, they are becoming less contented and peaceful every day.

The Honorary Benches should be gradually replaced by panchayets composed of the chief villagers, and empowered to try small money suits and petty criminal cases.

SAHACHAR,
July 1st, 1896.

6. The *Sahachar* of the 1st July writes as follows on the Mirzapore

The Mirzapore case.

case:—

Mr. Branson did not act rightly by not taking the depositions of all the witnesses who were brought forward by the defence. If all these witnesses had been examined, it is probable that the whole conspiracy underlying the case would have been revealed. Whether Mr. Branson had any motive in preventing more secrets from coming to light is not known. But supposing that he and the District Superintendent of Police had no complicity in the affair, and would not, therefore, have been in the least harmed by further revelations, it was nothing short of stupidity on his part not to have examined the other witnesses. Baladev Das in his affidavit before the Allahabad High Court had made allegations against several persons. He had stated that on the 1st April one Badranil, a teacher in the London Mission High School, asked him, at the request of one Rampratap Marwari, not to sell the houses to the Armenian gentleman, on pain of incurring the displeasure of the

Magistrate and the District Superintendent. The *kotwal* of Mirzapore had himself asked Rampratap to tell Baladev so. When Baladev saw Rampratap, the latter asked him to sell the houses to him at one or two thousand rupees more than the price which had been settled with the Armenian gentleman, and told him that the Magistrate and the District Superintendent were very much offended with him. Baladev had also stated that on that night a stranger waked him from sleep and threatened him by saying that if he sold the houses to Mr. Carrapiett and registered the deed of sale the next day, it would be difficult for him to live in Mirzapore, nay, to live at all. A request not to sell the houses to Mr. Carrapiett had also been made to him by Deputy Magistrate Munshi Nizamuddin. Now, Baladev must have had sufficient evidence to prove these allegations. For, no sane man would make such allegations without being in possession of evidence to prove them. The additional evidence offered by the defence, which the Magistrate did not think it necessary to take, would have shewn whether Nizamuddin made the request of his own motion, or made it under the orders of somebody else, and who the employer of the *gunda*, who threatened Baladev, was.

Mr. Branson has given Ananda Giri permission to prosecute the lower police officers who got up the case. But should those officers be allowed to escape scotfree if Ananda Giri is not disposed to proceed against them? Their offence is so serious and suggests so strong a suspicion of having been instigated by higher officers that the Crown should at least, to clear the character of the latter, proceed against them. The Magistrate himself, if he is conscious of his own innocence, should prosecute those who made use of his name for their wicked purposes.

7. The *Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide* of the 3rd July says that in the trial of the Hindu-Musalman riot cases the Musalmans must not expect impartial justice at the hands of the officials. No confidence can also be placed in the laws of the British Government which always helps the strong against the weak. Cheating, falsehood and forgery have become the order of the day under the Evidence Act. Nay, the Hindu-Musulman riot cases are not decided even according to such laws as the British Government has made. The punishment of the parties concerned in these riots by a summary process is calculated to increase the number of such riots in future.

8. The *Samay* of the 3rd July says that the appointment of Sir Griffith Evans to the Chief Justiceship will be regarded as a great catastrophe by the people. Sir Griffith has long been found out, and his appointment to the High Court Bench will be a deathblow to the integrity and independence of an institution which is still looked upon as the palladium of justice in this country.

9. The *Hitavadi* of the 3rd July writes as follows:—
The country is fallen on evil days. Nothing but wails is heard on all sides. Famine is always present in the country. Whatever the case might be in other provinces, Bengal, which abounds in rivers and tanks, never suffered from scarcity of water. But unfortunately even in Bengal—Bengal which is plentifully supplied with water, blessed with fertility and green with harvests—there is a cry for water everywhere. Added to these providential evils there are not a few evils of human making. People are sorely harassed and stripped of their all by oppression. What a tempest of discord is now blowing over once peaceful India! Father and son are not on speaking terms, there is no harmony between brother and brother, and kinsmen are, what indeed they have always been, irreconcilable in enmity. Confusion reigns everywhere in society. There has been an incredible increase of litigation. Even those who have no food to eat are eager to go to law. The country is on the point of ruin on account of litigation. From the sale of stamps alone Government derives a revenue of 7 crores every year. This is no small evil to poor India. But people cannot obtain justice even at this ruinous cost. There is little hope of success in the law Courts if fraud, forgery and false evidence are not resorted to. Fraud and forgery, therefore, are fearfully on the increase. The descendants of those Indians who were renowned for their love of peace and truth are now stigmatised by foreign writers as liars, cheats and forgers.

DARUSSALTANAT
AND URDU GUIDE,
July 3rd, 1896.

SAMAY,
July 3rd, 1896.

HITAVADI,
July 3rd, 1896.

Settlement of disputes by arbitration.

Sir Comer Petheram's successor.

It is certain that the national character has been sullied in this way by the defects in the present system of administering justice. The thoughtful Mr. Field, in the preface to his work on the law of evidence, has unreservedly admitted this. The Judges are foreigners and do not therefore know local circumstances. An English Judge in this country is unacquainted with the ways and habits of the litigants, and has no personal knowledge of the cause of action in any suit. In deciding a case, he has, therefore, to depend solely upon the evidence which is adduced by the parties. And as false evidence is resorted to by them, he is easily deceived. If he had been acquainted with local affairs, parties could not have counted upon deceiving him with false evidence. From time immemorial local disputes had been decided in India by elderly and impartial people possessed of local experience. Lawyers like Sir Henry Maine have spoken favourably of this arbitration system. Unfortunately for us that system is gradually disappearing even from our villages. Formerly villagers, men—women and children—would leave their village at the sight of a red turban. But villagers now-a-days are fierce litigants.

Many causes are operating against the old arbitration system. Social discipline has become so lax that everybody is now his own guide, and nobody seems disposed to follow another's lead. There is none who can help looking carefully after his own interests. Everybody is taken up far too much with his own affairs to be able or willing to attend to the public good. Over and above this, the doors of the law Courts are always open, and foolish people naturally rush in that direction. People go to law for the veriest trifles. But going to Court means heavy expenditure. Every communication that has to be made to a law Court must be made in writing on stamped paper, and the value of a stamp is in proportion to the value of a suit. Nor can copies of judgments be procured without the payment of stamps. Over and above this, parties have to pay fees, large or small, to counsel, pleader, attorney or mukhtar. There are besides many other legal and illegal charges, such as searching fees, diet-money for witnesses, peons' fees and bribes to the amla. As things stand at present, a suit of the value of 100 rupees cannot often be conducted for less than 1,000 rupees.

People have now become oppressors. The strong delight in oppressing the weak; the rich zamindar is anxious to rob a poorer one of his small village; and even a rich zamindar will use artifices to obtain possession of the small homestead of a poor householder. We do not mean to say that there are no good men now, and there were no oppressors in times gone by. But oppression has now increased. In the law Courts the victory is his who can spend money and bestow greater care upon the getting up of a case. There is no remedy for this evil except a return to the old arbitration system.

With a view of reducing expenditure, and perhaps also with a view of reducing litigation, Sir Charles Elliott removed many Munsifs from the mufassal to the sadar. But Sir Charles Elliott was a Governor, who was passionately fond of work, and he was given to doing whatever came into his mind without considering what its consequences might be. His acts, therefore, though prompted by good intentions, yielded no good results.

Sir Charles felt the necessity of reducing litigation. But the means which he adopted with that view did harm instead of good; for it only increased the distance of the Law Courts without doing away with the necessity of having recourse to them.

Many Judges see the advantage of the arbitration system, and advise parties to settle their disputes in that way. The members of the National Congress and other thoughtful people have also turned their attention to the subject. But nothing practical has yet been done. In his recent speech at the Provincial Conference, the President, the Hon'ble Babu Guruprasad Sen, adverting to this point, remarked that the increase of the revenue from excise and stamps might appear to superficial observers to be a sign of the prosperity of the country, but the people themselves knew how ruinous this was to the country. Guruprasad Babu would therefore have all suits below 50 rupees in value tried by punchayets, unless a punchayet should declare itself unable to settle such a case.

This arbitration system obtains in the Deccan, and especially in the Madras Presidency. In Calcutta, a zamindari punchayet was established to save the zamindar class from the ruinous effects of litigation. An attempt

should be made to establish in every village a system of settling disputes by arbitration.

We are glad to learn that this system has already been introduced into some places in Bengal. In the Senhati Chandani mahal in the Khulna district, for instance, an arbitration Court has been established by the local public. A list has been published of the names of the arbitrators, and parties will be at liberty to choose any arbitrators from among the gentlemen named in the list, or to choose any arbitrator they like. Everybody, however, will be compelled to have disputes settled by arbitration. Some serious cases are said to have been already settled by such arbitration, and some other cases are pending before the arbitration Court. At Mulghar, too, in the same district, an arbitration Court has been established. If every village follows this example, the salutary reform we recommend will be easily accomplished.

There are wise and experienced men, such as pensioned officers, Honorary Magistrates and pleaders in almost every village, whose appointment as arbitrators will give satisfaction to all.

But everybody will not agree to have his dispute settled by arbitration, nor would it be easy to bear him down by social pressure. We therefore ask the Legislature to provide for the establishment of arbitration Courts. By doing so, they will entitle themselves to the eternal gratitude of everybody in Bengal, high or low.

10. The same paper expresses itself satisfied with the sentences that have been passed on the Hindus and Musalmans implicated in the Titagar riot case.

HITAVADI,
July 3rd, 1896.

11. A correspondent writes in the same paper from Khulna that everybody at that place is glad that a just and high-minded officer like Babu Syamapada Chaudhuri has been proved innocent in the official enquiry that was made into the charge brought against him. The editor, however, wishes Government to publish all the papers relating to the enquiry. All doubts in the public mind in that connection should be set at rest.

HITAVADI.

12. The same paper says that the distinction of Natives and Europeans is becoming more and more pronounced both in administrative and in judicial matters, and the sacredness of the Queen's Proclamation is thus being impaired. Lately the Deputy Commissioner of Darjeeling asked the Sessions Judge of Dinajpur to hold a special Sessions Court, at an earlier date than the regular one, for the benefit of certain Europeans who are now undergoing *hajat* pending their trial. The writer does not grudge the Europeans this privilege. He only wishes similar consideration to be shown to natives too.

HITAVADI.

13. The same paper says that the number of suits is gradually decreasing in the Calcutta Small Cause Court. The Chief Judge and the Second Judge have to work not more than two or two and-a-half hours a day. They find great difficulty in killing their time. Sometimes the Chief Judge leaves Court before 2 P. M. The Judges of that Court not being required to register their attendance, their hours of arrival and departure can not be known. Even the High Court Judges have to register their attendance. It is hoped that the Lieutenant-Governor will attend to the matter.

HITAVADI.

14. A correspondent of the same paper says that the officiating Second Munsif of Alipore not having Small Cause Court powers, the number of Small Cause Court suits in the Court of the First Munsif, Babu Matilal Haldar, has greatly increased. Babu Matilal is therefore disposing of those cases in a most improper manner. Summons not having been served upon the defendant in one such case, the plaintiff did not think it necessary to summon his witnesses. But on the day fixed for the hearing, the defendant entered his appearance without being summoned. The plaintiff had, however, no witnesses to produce, thereupon Babu Matilal passed the following verbal order:—

HITAVADI.

"Dismissed for want of prosecution." The plaintiff's pleader tried to show that this would be unjust. But the Munsif refused to hear him now that he had passed a verbal order and treated him to some hard words. Having no

other alternative, the pleader asked permission to withdraw the case, whereupon the Munsif revoked his former order and granted permission.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
July 4th, 1896.

15. Referring to the Titagar case, the *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 4th July observes as follows:—

The Titagar case.

The Hindu *durwans* of the mill, with the object of preventing cow-slaughter, stole the cows which the Muhammadans had intended for sacrifice. The police went to recover the cows, but failed in their attempt. The Musalmans then attacked the Hindus. This shows that the Hindus gave offence to the Musalmans, and were, therefore, wholly responsible for the riot. The Hindu Babus of the mill were really at the root of the whole affair. But they are now enjoying themselves, while the poor *durwans* are rotting in jail.

SANJIVANI,
July 4th, 1896.

16. The *Sanjivani* of the 4th July does not approve of the rumoured appointment of Sir Griffith Evans to the Chief Justiceship of the Calcutta High Court on the retirement of Sir Comer Petheram. Sir Griffith is not a friend of the Indian people. He has always been found to lose his equanimity whenever there has been a conflict between the natives and the Anglo-Indians. The impartial administration of justice will suffer if such a man is appointed to the Chief Justiceship.

Sir Comer Petheram's successor.

BANGAVASI,
July 4th, 1896.

17. The *Bangavasi* of the 4th July observes that the punishment inflicted on Ganes Lala and Ganes Misra, the two Hindu accused in the Titagar riot case, is heavy. Those

The Titagar riot case.

who created the disturbance, attacked the Hindus and even assaulted the police have not been more heavily punished. Punish the guilty by all means, but why make this difference in their punishment? The two Hindu prisoners have been very heavily punished. The Magistrate says that they provoked the riot by refusing to give up the cow. True. But if they had not refused to give up the cow, the animal would have been slaughtered under the very nose of the Hindus.

CHINSURA VARTAVAHA,
July 5th, 1896.

18. The *Chinsura Vartavaha* of the 5th July has the following:—

Europeans in the Subordinate Executive Service.

The Government has evidently made up its mind to provide a number of Europeans with employments in the Subordinate Executive Service. We shall show that this policy is a mistaken one. Europeans generally live in a very high style, and the pay drawn by a European employed in the Subordinate Executive Service is for him too small to make the two ends meet. He has consequently to eke out his small pay by fair means or foul. European Deputy Magistrates, moreover, are not educated enough to follow a pleader or a mukhtar in his line of argument. A European Deputy Magistrate is not honoured and respected like a Civilian Magistrate, and he has therefore to create prestige for himself by oppressing the people. The Subordinate Executive Service Examination is a stiff one. Europeans cannot successfully compete with the natives in this examination, but still they are employed in the service in direct violation of the promise made by the Government that none but natives of India should be entitled to employment in the Subordinate Executive Service. That Europeans of indifferent merit who are generally employed as Deputy Magistrates cannot be expected to maintain the integrity of the service has been proved in more instances than one. Take, for instance, the case of Mr. Fordyce. At first he used to take bribe secretly from the litigants in his Court. But in course of time he grew bold and began to take bribe openly. The cat, however, was out of the bag at last. He was tried by a Commission and dismissed. Being a European he was not publicly prosecuted. A native Deputy Magistrate would have most probably been dealt with in a different manner. Why was Mr. Fordyce in the habit of taking bribes? Was it not because his pay did not enable him to keep himself above his ever numerous wants?

Take another instance. Mr. Warde-Jones was the Subdivisional Officer of Govindpur. His financial condition was bad. He had borrowed money from many, and a local Raja was one of his chief creditors. His dealings with the Raja gained him notoriety, and afterwards became the cause of his dismissal. The case of Mr. Ainslie is another instance in point. He is not like Mr. Fordyce or Mr. Warde-Jones in the habit of entering into monetary

dealings with other people, but he seems to be quite innocent of law. He has already gained sufficient notoriety by suspending the whole Govindpur bar, because some of its members did not stand up to show him honour. The pleaders appealed to the High Court, and Mr. Ainslie was made to eat the humble pie. None but a European Deputy Magistrate of the stamp of Mr. Ainslie would have treated the bar in this shameful way. Instances of this nature can be multiplied. Mr. Smith has been Subdivisional Officer of Pakur for the last thirteen or fourteen years. Last year he interfered with the religious practices of the local Hindus and was censured by the Government. Mr. Oldham, the Commissioner, reported against him, and observed that he was not fit to be entrusted with the charge of a subdivision. Mr. Smith, however, is still the Subdivisional Officer of Pakur.

All these instances clearly prove that Europeans ought not to be employed in the Subordinate Executive Service. They have failed to maintain the prestige and integrity of the service. But the Government is still employing them not only in this, but in other branches of the public service as well, to the exclusion of natives more deserving than they. The *Pioneer* says that the Government ought to appoint Europeans even to the posts of *Kotwal*, worth fifty rupees a month. We hope, however, that the Government will not lend its ears to the *Pioneer's* counsel, but will maintain the just rights of the natives.

19. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 6th July complains that the bailiffs of

Small Cause Court bailiffs.

Small Cause Courts are a corrupt set of public servants. They are all paid by the Government,

but still they will not work if they are not remunerated for their services by the plaintiffs. If they are not paid, they will not serve the defendants with processes, and will then report that the defendants were not found or could not be identified. In this way the bailiffs sometimes earn more than pleaders and mukhtars. What, then, are the bailiffs paid for? If they are paid servants of the Government, why should they claim further remuneration for their services? Is not such remuneration to be treated as a bribe? It may be said that the Government does not know anything about the corruption of the bailiffs. The Government may not formally know anything about it, but it ought to know that low-paid as they are, the bailiffs are open to great temptation, and that they are compelled to eke out their small and insufficient pay by fair means or foul. Lord Cornwallis knew this, and attempted a redress of the evil. But no second Lord Cornwallis has come to give effect to the intention of the first.

(d,—Education.

20. The *Charu Mihir* of the 29th June says that some members of the

The Central Text-Book Committee.

Central Text-Book Committee who are themselves authors are rejecting better books written by other men. So long as these members do not subordinate

their personal interest to their sense of duty, so long will the Committee continue to bring disgrace upon itself. It is hoped that the charge which is made against the Committee will be carefully investigated, and the evil complained of will be removed. Enquiries were made on several previous occasions, but the fault attributed to the Committee was not corrected. It is not easy to enter into the stronghold which this association of friends have built up around them. This stronghold can be demolished only by incessant warfare carried on by many mighty combatants.

21. The *Sahachar* of the 1st July asks why Mr. C. R. Wilson, who

Mr. Wilson, an examiner in English.

teaches English in the B. A. classes in the Presidency College, has been appointed an examiner in English for the next B. A. Examination, in violation

of the rule, which has been in force since 1889, that no one who teaches a particular subject should be appointed examiner in it.

22. A correspondent of the *Sanjivani* of the 3rd July writes as follows:—

The Griffiths affair in a Madras paper.

There is a class of Europeans in the Education Department in Bengal who do not scruple to abuse the Bengalis in season and out of season—who do not hesitate to bite the very hand which feeds them, and with whom it is very

SULABH DAINIK
July 6th, 1896.

CHARU MIHIR,
June 29th, 1896.

SAHACHAR,
July 1st, 1896.

SANJIVANI,
July 3rd, 1896.

easy to sacrifice truth on the altar of self-interest. In a recent issue of the *Indian Journal of Education*, Madras, a writer has come forward to defend Mr. Griffiths and the University peons, who, some time ago, treated a student in a shameful manner. In the opinion of this writer Sudhansumohan and his father, Mr. Anandamohan Bose, were most to blame in the matter, and Mr. Griffiths and his myrmidons did what was only right and just. This European who, if he had not been provided in India, would have had to go about begging in the streets of his own country, abused the Bengalis, his protectors, in the columns of the *Indian Daily News*, and was taken to task by the Lieutenant-Governor for exciting race animosity.

SULABH DAINIK,
July 3rd, 1896.

23. Referring to the decision of the Board of Examiners in the case of the B. A. candidate who was plucked for only one mark, the *Sulabh Dainik* of the 3rd July fails to understand how the Board could arrive at the conclusion

that not even one additional mark could be granted to the plucked candidate. Did the members of the Board get the candidate's paper examined by a competent examiner? If not, what is there to justify their conclusion? Moreover, the candidate in question was plucked in Sanskrit. Did Mr. Pedler and his English-knowing European and native colleagues measure the candidate's knowledge of Sanskrit? If the candidate's paper had been impartially examined, he would have certainly passed. The Board of Examiners ought to have had the paper examined by a third person, and ascertained whether the boy could or could not be passed, instead of taking upon themselves the responsibility of passing decision in the matter without at all examining the candidate's paper.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
July 4th, 1896.

A vacancy in the Nawab's High School, Murshidabad.

24. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 4th July will accuse Sir Alfred Croft and the Inspector of the Presidency Circle of partiality to the Hindus, if the post which will be vacated in consequence of the promotion of a teacher in the Nawab's High School in Murshidabad to the Head Mastership is not filled by some Muhammadan, especially as the appointment will rest not with the District Board, but with the Department. Sir Alfred Croft will not certainly on this occasion put his foot down upon his own circular.

SANJIVANI,
July 4th, 1896.

Mr. Hallward.

25. The *Sanjivani* of the 4th July understands that the Lieutenant-Governor has expressed his strong disapproval of the conduct of Mr. Hallward, Principal, Ravenshaw College, Cuttack. It is said that His Honour granted the guardian of the ill-treated Rajkumars permission to prosecute Mr. Hallward. This rumour may or may not be correct. But it has been known for certain that the Lieutenant-Governor has ordered that Mr. Hallward should no longer be appointed Principal of any College. Sir Alexander Mackenzie has entitled himself to the thanks of the people by taking the offending Principal to task.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
July 5th, 1896

26. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 5th July has the following :—

The Text-Book Committee and Bengali text-books.

Quite a multitude of Bengali text-books have been published, but very few of them are faultless and unobjectionable. In some the style is idiomatic, racy and luminous, the tone is unobjectionable, and the rules of grammar have been faithfully obeyed, but there is a lamentable absence of choice in the selection of subjects. In others, there is a careful selection of subjects, but there is a lamentable failure in presenting sublime thoughts and sentiments in a lucid and vigorous style. There are books which make us wonder at the impudence and self-sufficiency of their authors. There are very few books which are faultless and readable. There is a dearth of good text-books. This is no doubt the reason why we find among the text-books selected by the Central Text-Book Committee many which are not at all fit to be read. It cannot be gainsaid that there are members of the Central Text-Book Committee who are not qualified to judge the merits of Bengali text-books. They may no doubt be well versed in European lore, but their European learning cannot be expected to stand them in good stead in estimating Bengali text-books at their true worth. There are few Bengali writers who can make their style adapt itself to their thoughts or their thoughts adapt themselves to their style. We do not know how many such Bengali writers are among the members of the Central Text Book Committee, but this is certain

that none but such writers can properly judge the merits of a Bengali text-book. The Text-Committee, it must be confessed, has to labour under a great disadvantage. There are very few good text-books. And if that body is to be too strict in the selection of text-books, it will have very few books to select. It cannot, therefore, help selecting books which are not at all fit to be text-books. This is also the reason why the Committee has to select from year to year the few good text-books that have been already in existence. When we were connected with the Education Department, the dearth of good text-books led us to think that it was better to teach the boys of the vernacular schools orally than to teach them from text-books. This was our impression twenty-five years ago, and nothing has taken place since that time to remove that impression. Good text-books are as few now as they were then. No member of the Text-Book Committee should, therefore, be blamed if it is found out that he had prepared text-books before he came to be a member. If his books are good, we do not see the reason why they should not be selected. The members of the Text-Book Committee are to blame only when they reject a good book in order to make room for a bad one prepared by one of their number. It is sometimes complained that even good books have been rejected by the Text-Book Committee. We do not know how far this complaint is true, but we know of instances in which we have found the charges preferred against the Text-Book Committee by disappointed authors to be groundless. In our opinion, very few good books are rejected by the Committee, but many books of indifferent merit are selected by them simply for want of better text-books. It will not do blaming the Text-Book Committee alone. The authors too should be blamed.

27. The *Dacca Gazette* of the 6th July writes as follows:—

The Central Text-Book Committee.

The members of the Central Text-Book Committee may be all rich and learned men, but having power in their hands, is it possible for them not to abuse it? Government saw that the powers of the Committee were apt to be abused, and the late Lieutenant-Governor had to say in his Educational Resolution for the year 1891-92, that if any member of the Committee had any connection with an author or publisher, he should not attend the meeting in which the merits of any book written or published by such author or publisher might be discussed. What a commentary this upon the honesty and integrity of the Committee! The Lieutenant-Governor certainly saw what stuff the members of the Central Text-Book Committee were made of, and how giddy and capricious their possession of power had made them. But circulars and resolutions are not the drug which will cure the members of the Text-Book Committee of their malady. The resolution referred to may have put them on their guard for a brief space of time, but they are again what they were before.

Last year, when the Director of Public Instruction visited Dacca, some people submitted to him a petition pointing out the vagaries of the Committee. But beyond assuring the petitioners that he would consider the matter, the Director seems to have done nothing. Sir Alfred should know that his indifference has made his pet Committee lawless, arbitrary and self-seeking. A few days more, and the scandal will become perfectly alarming.

Matters in this respect, however, look somewhat hopeful just now. Thirty writers of Bengali text-books have submitted to Sir Alfred Croft a strong petition pointing out the vagaries and oppressions of the Committee, which favour worthless authors at the expense of authors who have no connection with the members. The Director is said to have asked the members for their opinion on the statements made in the petition. It is hoped that Sir Alfred Croft will give due consideration to a matter so serious that it exercised even the Lieutenant-Governor.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

28. The *Tripura Prakash* for the first and second fortnights of *Jyaishta*

The proposed water-supply taxation.

says that the proposed tax on marriage may be regarded as a poll-tax or *jijia*. For in a country of Hindus and Musalmans, among both of whom marriage is a religious obligation, everybody without exception will have to pay

DACCA GAZETTE,
July 6th, 1896.

TRIPURA PRAKASH,
First and second
fortnights of
Jaishtha.

it. It is a wrong notion entertained only by those who are not acquainted with the social customs of the country, that marriage expenses furnish an index to the pecuniary circumstances of the man who incurs them. Social custom in this country often compels a man to spend more on a marriage than he is able or willing to do.

A tax has to be paid on births, if not in villages, at least in Municipal towns, where births have to be registered. Those that leave behind money have to pay a tax even after death, in the shape of a "succession tax." Of birth, death and marriage, therefore, marriage alone was so long exempt from taxation, and the water-supply resolution proposes to supply the omission. Matters are going too far for endurance by the people of a poor country.

The revenue from a wheel-tax will be very small, considering that in East Bengal, where the land is generally low, wheeled traffic is very inconsiderable. What good will then be derived by imposing a tax which will not bring in sufficient revenue but will lead to oppression? The writer enters his emphatic protest against the imposition of fresh taxes. It is necessary to improve the sanitation of the mufassal, and Government's efforts in that direction have the writer's support. But, instead of imposing fresh taxes, the proceeds of the road and public works cesses should be utilised in improving the water-supply of the province.

BANKURA DARPAN,
July 1st, 1896.

29. The *Bankura Darpan* of the 1st July complains that though the rainy season has fully commenced, no boats are found in the Rajgram and Surpanagar ferry ghats in Bankura. When the convenience of the residents of the sadar is so little attended to, it is not difficult to guess how the mufassal people must fare.

SAHACHAR,
July 1st, 1896.

30. In reference to the *Amrita Bazar Patrika's* article on the *phooka* process, the *Sahachar* of the 1st July considers it necessary that a thorough scientific enquiry should be made into the subject, as it would be unjust to punish *gowalas*, if subjecting cows to the process is really found to cause them no pain.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
July 4th, 1896.

31. A revision of the rules for election of members to Local Self-Government bodies being in the contemplation of Government, the *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 4th July hopes that proper care will be taken to secure an adequate representation of Muhammadan interests. On each District Board the proportion of Hindu and Musalman members should be fixed according to the proportions of the Hindu and Musalman population of the district, Musalman tax-payers being allowed to vote only for Musalman candidates and Hindu tax-payers only for Hindu candidates. The failure of the existing rules to secure adequate Musalman representation was clearly proved by the last elections for the Jessore District Board, in which not one Muhammadan was returned, though the Musalman population of the district is more than one-and-a-half times the Hindu population.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
July 6th, 1896.

32. The *Hindi Bangavasi* of the 6th July says that the application of the *phooka* process to milch cows causes pain to the animals. The cow being a sacred animal among Hindus, the application of the above process is calculated to wound Hindu religious feeling. The *gowalas* who apply the process to cows whose calves have died ought, therefore, to be punished.

(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.

SAHACHAR,
July 1st, 1896.

33. The *Sahachar* of the 1st July draws attention to the inconvenience which is suffered by passengers who come to Sealdah by the Southern Section of the Eastern Bengal State Railway, on account of the central platform at Sealdah being in course of repair. The first two morning office trains of that section touch at the goods platform, which is too short to accommodate a whole train, and the passengers have, therefore, to alight on the ground, which is covered with *khoa*, and have to get out of the station by a narrow and muddy path. Till the completion of the repairs, the southern section trains can be very conveniently stopped at the old station at Baliaghata.

34. The *Hitavadi* of the 3rd July has received the following railway complaints:—

HITAVADI,
July 3rd, 1896.

(1) The *Khansama* of some Engineer got into the female compartment of a train at Jaydevpur or some neighbouring station on the Dacca-Mymensingh Railway. He is also said to have touched the body of a young Brahmin woman. The women having set up a scream, the man got down at the Rajendrapur station. The Guard caught the man, but afterwards let him go. The Editor hopes that the Railway authorities will enquire into the truth of this complaint.

(2) One Basanta Kumar Pal got down at the Aranghata station with some ladies. He offered to hand over to the booking clerk the ladies' tickets for them; but that officer refused to receive their tickets from him. The women therefore began to hand over their tickets to the booking clerk, and Basanta walked away. But he had not gone far when he heard a scream, and on turning round found one of the female passengers, a young woman, standing naked. On enquiry he learnt that the young woman having made a little delay in handing over her ticket, the coolies had stripped her of her clothes at the booking clerk's order. Basanta having protested against this, the booking clerk had him expelled from the station by coolies, and another gentleman, who tried to remonstrate, shared the same fate. Basanta then complained to the station-master, but his complaint was not heeded. He then complained in writing to the Traffic Superintendent, who deputed the Traffic Inspector to enquire into the matter. The Editor is very anxious to know the result of the enquiry.

(3) Some Europeans forcibly entered into the female compartment of the down train No. 44T.B. at Konnagar. When the train reached the Bally station, the station-master was informed of the matter, and the Guard had great difficulty in making the Europeans get down. The correspondent saw the women in the compartment attempting to get down in a body, and they appeared to be quite stunned, which leads the correspondent to think that they must have been maltreated. The Agent of the East Indian Railway should enquire whether the Europeans entered the female compartment with the knowledge of the Station-master of Konnagar, and whether the Station-master of Bally or the Guard prosecuted the Europeans for entering into the female compartment. If the Europeans have been let off without prosecution, Government should attend to the matter.

(4) On the 19th June last several native gentlemen who had purchased intermediate class tickets at the Jalpaiguri station tried to get into the intermediate carriages of the down mail train which reaches that station at 7-35. But there were European passengers in all the three intermediate class carriages, and they would not allow the native gentlemen to enter although there was room in the carriage. One of the passengers was the Station-master of Siliguri. The native gentlemen represented the matter to the guard and the Station-master, but received no help from them. They had therefore no choice, but to travel third class.

The correspondent also complains that those who purchase tickets in time to travel by the mail train are often compelled to travel in the mixed train for want of a sufficient number of carriages in the mail train.

35. The *Sanjivani* of the 4th July thanks the East Indian Railway authorities for appointing a female ticket collector for female passengers at Howrah, and would like to know whether female ticket-collectors have been employed to examine the tickets of female passengers in those other stations where tickets are checked. All Indian railways ought to employ female ticket-collectors.

SANJIVANI,
July 4th, 1896.

(h)—General.

36. The *Hublul Mateen* of the 29th June understands that the Trusteeship of the Hooghly Imambara having fallen vacant by the death of Sir Jahan Kadr Mirza, some Muhammadans of the Sunni sect have been nominated for the office, one of them being the younger brother of the present *Mutawalli*. The other Sunni nominations have been secured by the *Mutawalli* solely with the view of propping up the candidature of his brother. The Hooghly Imambara

HUBLUL MATEEN,
June 29th, 1896.

being the place where Shias perform their religious rites and ceremonies, the Trusteeship ought not to be given to a Sunni.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
July 1st, 1896.

37. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* of the 1st July says that the Sub-Registrar of Berhampore requires an explanation to be attached to every correction made in a document brought for registration, instead of requiring only the initials of the executant to be put over it. On the 19th June last, the Sub-Registrar fined his Head-Clerk five rupees for omitting to draw his attention to the absence of an explanation in the prescribed form. But on the same day he accepted for registration a document in which the corrections were only initialled, because it was offered for registration by a member of a wealthy family of the place whom he could not, for the sake of his father-in-law, afford to displease.

HITAVADI,
July 3rd, 1896.

38. The *Hitavadi* of the 3rd July says that the price at which salt is sold in this country is far in excess of the cost of its manufacture. The cost of manufacturing a maund of salt in this country varies from one to two annas. But Government levies a duty of two and-a-half rupees on every maund of salt. Besides this, dealers in salt have to pay a warehouse charge, a license fee, as well as the income-tax; so that they cannot sell a maund of salt for less than three rupees and twelve annas. Has anybody ever heard of such a difference between the cost and the selling price of an article?

Some say that this heavy salt duty being an indirect tax is not felt by the people. But is the imperceptible and painless extraction of blood by leeches less weakening than a painful surgical operation? It is the poor who suffer from this heavy salt duty. If every family can save eight annas every year from a reduction in that duty, will that be an inconsiderable saving in a country where, according to Sir William Hunter, 40 millions and, according to Sir Charles Elliott, 70 millions of people can obtain only one meal a day? For eight annas means in this country one meal for a poor person for eight days.

It should also be remembered that salt ranks next to air, food and water as a necessary of life. To lay a tax on salt is therefore to lay a tax on life.

Both the eastern and the western system of medicine recognise the importance of salt as an article of diet. English physicians say that to maintain health it is necessary for an adult person to consume not less than 7 seers of salt per annum. But we have the authority of high officials like the Secretary of State, the Viceroys, and Lieutenant-Governors, for saying that the average consumption of salt per head in this country is 5 seers, which means that many people in this country consume less salt than what is necessary to maintain them in health. The salt duty was enhanced by Lord Dufferin in January 1888. In that very year there was a falling off in the consumption of salt by 6 lakhs of maunds. The next year the consumption fell off by another 6 lakhs of maunds. The consumption has since increased, but then there has been also a simultaneous increase of population.

Salt is also an indispensable article of diet for cattle and an important manure. Cattle also are deteriorating and agriculture is suffering on account of the heavy salt tax. People are, therefore, every way suffering from this salt duty.

HITAVADI.

39. The same paper says that Government has pledged itself not to pay off the greater portion of its English debts before stated years. But it is bound by no such pledge in respect of about 15 crores of its English debts. This debt it can pay off any moment by making loans in India. Government probably thinks that to pay off that debt at the present when the rate of exchange is so unfavourable would entail a heavy loss. But for a favourable rate of exchange Government will have to wait till the Greek Kalends. It is better also to suffer loss once for all than to suffer it every year as at present.

HITAVADI.

40. A correspondent of the same paper says that corruption prevails in the registry office at Khulna. A receipt for Rs. 1,700, which was presented at that office for registration, has been made away with by the payment of bribes. Occurrences like these frequently happen.

41. The *Sanjivani* of the 4th July observes that the man Birsha who some time ago proclaimed himself as the Kol prophet, is evidently a mad man. None but a lunatic could preach rebellion against the British Government. An ignorant, uncivilised Kol peasant cannot be guilty of sedition. Birsha and his followers ought to have been sent to the lunatic asylum instead of to jail.

SANJIVANI,
July 4th, 1896.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

42. The *Dainik-o Samachar Chandrika* of the 7th July says that the only merit of whipping, as a punishment, seems to be that it is the cheapest of all forms of punishment. It does not cost Government anything to carry it out. Whipping cannot and does not correct those that are hardened in sin. It presses hard upon new fledged offenders. Whipping is inhumane: it is ineffectual as a form of punishment. The Government would certainly have abolished it if its abolition had not had for its consequence an increase of its expenditure.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
July 7th, 1896.

If whipping, then, is not to be abolished, its harm should be minimised as far as possible. People should be granted time enough to appeal in all whipping cases before the sentence is executed. Even now it is at the discretion of the Magistrates to allow a person to appeal in a whipping cause. Only the other day the Magistrate of Muzaffarpur exercised this discretion in a case in which he had sentenced the son of a zamindar to whipping. The High Court on appeal set aside the Magistrate's decision and strongly censured him.

It is not always easy for persons sentenced to whipping to give bail, and this being the case, the Government is sure to incur additional expenditure in providing *hajat* accommodation for prisoners sentenced to whipping, if they are granted permission to appeal in all whipping cases. But this fear of additional expenditure ought not to scare away the Government. A reform should and must be carried, no matter how large is the expenditure likely to be incurred in doing so. But this additional expenditure is not likely to be large. In many cases bail will be forthcoming and in District Courts appeal in whipping cases will be speedily disposed of. In subdivisions it will take some time to have an appeal case disposed of, and in these cases only confinement in *hajat* for a long time will be necessary. The Government should, therefore, lose no time in introducing this desirable reform.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

43. A correspondent of the *Dacca Prakash* of the 5th July says that a severe scarcity has broken out in Hatia in the Noakhali district. Rice which was selling at Rs. 2-8 to Rs. 2-12 per maund two months ago, is now selling at Rs. 4-12 to Rs. 5 per maund. Most people have no money. Those that have can no longer keep it. Loans cannot be obtained. Will not Government take pity on the Hatia people?

DACCA PRAKASH,
July 5th, 1896.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

44. Mr. Bolton, as the Chief Secretary, observes the *Sanjivani* of the 4th July, is earning the good opinion of one and all. He has always been known for his large-heartedness. Once when he was the Magistrate of the 24-Parganas, an old woman came up to him just as he was leaving court and begged him in tears to hear her complaint. The *chaprasi* was about to drive her away, but Mr. Bolton in his usual sweet and encouraging voice addressed her as "mother" and asked her why she was crying. যা! তুমি কান্দ কেন? The old woman unburdened her heart to him. Mr. Bolton sent her to the court Sub-Inspector and the next day took up her case and punished her oppressor. Mr. Bolton is a just man and a friend of the oppressed.

SANJIVANI,
July 4th, 1896.

45. The same paper contradicts the statement made by the *Hitaishi* newspaper that a young Brahmo girl who has passed the F. A. examination is preparing herself for the stage (see Report on the Native Papers for 27th June). The story of the Brahmo lady going to the stage.

SANJIVANI.

1896, paragraph 43). The writer knows all Brahmo girls who have passed the F. A. examination, but none of them is preparing herself for the stage. Some of the friends of the writer called upon the editor of the *Hitaishi* and wanted to know the name of the lady who, it is alleged, intends to go to the stage. The editor referred the gentlemen to the manager and the manager pleaded ignorance. The editor was again pressed to give out the name of the lady, and he said that it was Harimati. There is, however, no Brahmo girl of that name who has passed the F. A. examination. The editor evidently coined a name to extricate himself from his embarrassing position, but he will not most probably be allowed to do so.

SARASWAT PATRA,
July 4th, 1896.

46. The *Saraswat Patra* of the 4th July has the following with reference to the Lieutenant-Governor's approaching visit to

The Lieutenant-Governor's approaching visit to Dacca.

Dacca:—

To-day is the 4th of July. By the end of this month Sir Alexander Mackenzie, Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, will pay a visit to Dacca. Most probably on the evening of the 30th July, the Dacca people, longing to see their new ruler, will be gratified by the sight of the Lieutenant-Governor's steamer slowly steaming up to the Dacca landing station. It is true that this is the first time that Sir Alexander Mackenzie will pay Dacca a visit as the head of the Government, but this is not the first time that Dacca will be favoured with a visit from a Lieutenant-Governor. Every two or three years some Lieutenant-Governor or other pays a visit to Dacca, but it must be said for the sake of truth that since Sir William Grey paid his last visit to that historic town, a high-minded and generous Lieutenant-Governor like Sir Alexander Mackenzie never set his foot on her soil. Dacca is elated with joy, the loyalty of her people has fairly overflowed its bounds in the ecstasy of welcoming the Lieutenant-Governor and serving him for three days together.

Now that Sir Alexander Mackenzie, the beneficent ruler and well-wisher of the people, is coming, let Dacca shake off her lethargy and the *ennui* of age, and let her put on a festive dress on her time-worn body and give her lord a right royal welcome. Old and worn out Dacca still occupies the foremost place among the East Bengal towns, and her offerings and services will no doubt be most welcome to the Lieutenant-Governor.

But let not Dacca show the Lieutenant-Governor the bright side of the picture alone. Let him also see the dark side of the picture. Sir Alexander Mackenzie is not the ruler to give himself up to enjoyment. He is always bent upon acquainting himself with the wants and grievances of the people. The wrinkle of sorrow on the smiling face does not escape his scrutinising eye. Let Dacca, therefore, unburden her heart to her lord and acquaint him with her numerous grievances. The Buriganga, which waters her feet, is fast shrinking up. Nothing remains of her former glory but an outline—a narrow silting up channel slowly and faintly flowing on. With Buriganga will pass away Dacca's beauty, strength and prosperity—her commerce and her health. The Lieutenant-Governor on his way to Dacca will be an eye-witness to the declining condition of the river. Let His Honour, then, wield his ruling rod and restore Buriganga to the life which is now fast ebbing away. Otherwise, Dacca will be turned into an inhospitable wilderness and never more will a Lieutenant-Governor set foot on her soil.

Let the Lieutenant-Governor also inspect the Dacca Municipality and devise means for the improvement of the sanitary condition of the town, for rescuing it from the ravages of malaria and cholera. Let not Dacca also forget to draw the Lieutenant-Governor's attention to the necessity of police reform. Let Sir Alexander Mackenzie know how far the Dacca police is doing its duty by the Dacca people—how far the executive lords it over the judiciary. Let not the ruler of Bengal remain unacquainted with anything—with any want or grievance of Dacca that he ought to know. The Dacca people will never fail to be favoured with his sympathy and the redress of their grievances.

Let not also the hamlets and villages in Dacca be forgotten. Let the Lieutenant Governor know where in these remote villages, there is scarcity of water or scarcity of food, disease or epidemic. The Lieutenant Governor is not coming to Dacca to enjoy sight-seeing. He is not for pleasure and

enjoyment. His sole aim is to acquaint himself with the grievances of the people and redress their wrongs. Let, then, Dacca play her part well.

47. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 4th July fails to see why either the MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR.

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Collector of Mymensingh or the Commissioner of the Dacca Division has not thought fit to intervene with a view of settling the differences between

Wajed Ali Khan of Koratiya and his grandmother—differences which threaten to ruin the late Hafez Mahamud Ali Khan's estate, one of the biggest zamindaris in East Bengal. It is hoped that either the Hindu zamindars of Mymensingh or one of the two above mentioned officials will bring about an amicable settlement between the young zamindar and his grandmother.

48. Referring to the contradiction of the statement in the *Hitaishai* made by the *Sanjivani* of the 4th July (para-graph 45), the *Hitaishi* of the 7th July says

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A Brahmo girl for the stage. that its information was derived from a trustworthy source, and it cannot believe that it is a wholesale fabrication. The writer could have no motive in circulating a false report. He, however, comes to understand that the name by which the lady in question goes is not her true name. None but those connected with the management of the theatre in which she is being coached know her real name. Theatre managers are in the habit of concealing the real names of their actresses in order to prevent their being taken possession of by their rivals. It was in an unguarded moment that the girl in question gave out that she was an educated Brahmo lady. Since the statement in question appeared in the *Hitaishi* newspaper the managers of the theatre referred to have been in a flutter and are trying their best to keep the girl away from the reach of the public. They are also moving heaven and earth to find out the man who divulged their secret. If the *Hitaishi's* information is without foundation, why this flutter in the dovecote of the theatre managers? All these strengthen the impression in the writer's mind that there must be some thing underlying his information. The girl in question may not have passed the F. A. examination, but there is little doubt that she is educated. Let the Brahmos institute an inquiry in all the Calcutta theatres in order to ascertain the truth or otherwise of the statement made by the *Hitaishi*, instead of foully abusing that paper in their organ.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

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BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 11th July 1896.

